

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:838

ANSWERED ON:10.12.2013

DIVERSION OF PDS ITEMS

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Jaywant;Karunakaran Shri P.;Karwariya Shri Kapil Muni;Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao;Panda Shri Baijayant;Pratap Narayanrao
Shri Sonawane;Singh Shri Ijyaraj

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether incidents of diversion/black marketing of Public Distribution System (PDS) items have been reported from some States during each of the last three years and the current year, and if so, the details thereof and the corrective action taken by the Government thereon, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to extend the pilot scheme of installing Global Positioning System on PDS trucks to other areas of the country and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other steps taken to strengthen/ streamline PDS, bring better co-ordination between various agencies including the Union and the State Governments and creating awareness amongst the poor to ensure proper delivery of foodgrain and other items to the targeted beneficiaries under the scheme?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) There have been complaints about irregularities in the functioning of the Targeted Public Distribution System

(TPDS) including leakages, diversion, etc. in some States/regions in the country. TPDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/UT Governments wherein the operational responsibilities for implementation of TPDS within the State/UT rest with the concerned State/UT Governments. Therefore, as and when complaints are received by the Government from individuals and organizations as well as through press reports, these are referred to the State/UT Governments concerned for inquiry and appropriate action. A State/UT-wise statement indicating number of such complaints received during the last three years and current year is at Annex – I.

In order to maintain supplies and securing availability and distribution of essential commodities, Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 has been notified by the Government which mandates the State and UT Governments to carry out all required action to ensure smooth functioning of TPDS. PDS(Control) Order, 2001 empowers State/UT Governments to take punitive action under clauses 8 & 9 in case of contravention of relevant provisions of the Order. State/UT-wise details regarding action taken under clauses 8 & 9 of the said Order during the last three years and the current year is at Annex – II.

State/UT Governments have also been delegated powers to take necessary action under the provisions of The Essential Commodities (EC) Act, 1955 and The Prevention of Black-marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 to prevent hoarding and black-marketing of essential commodities. State/UT-wise details of the raids conducted, value of goods confiscated and persons booked for violation of rules under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 during the last three years and the current year as reported by them are at Annex – III. The State Governments/UT Administrations have also taken action and reported detentions under The Prevention of Black-marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980. The total number of detentions as reported by the State Governments /UTs during the last three years

(2010 to 2012) and current year are as under:

(As on 30.11.2013)

Name of the State	2010	2011	2012	2013
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Gujarat	79	67	41	27
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Tamil Nadu	120	198	187	168
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Odisha 02 - - -

Maharashtra 02 05 03 01

Andhra Pradesh 01 - - -

Chhattisgarh 01 - - -

Total 205 270 231 196

(b) No, Madam. There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to extend the pilot scheme of installation of Global Positioning System (GPS) sets on vehicles carrying TPDS commodities.

(c) Strengthening and streamlining of TPDS is a continuous process. To improve functioning of TPDS, Government has been regularly issuing advisories and holding conferences wherein State/UT Governments are requested for continuous review of lists of Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families, improving the offtake of allocated foodgrains, ensuring timely availability of foodgrains at Fair Price Shops (FPSs), door step delivery of foodgrains to FPSs, greater transparency in functioning of TPDS, improved monitoring and vigilance at various levels, use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools including end-to-end computerisation of TPDS, improving the viability of FPS operations, etc. With a view to facilitate greater public scrutiny of functioning of TPDS, financial assistance under a plan scheme is also given by the Government to States/UTs for conducting publicity-cum-awareness campaigns on TPDS.